

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE****United States Patent and Trademark Office**

Address: COMMISSIONER OF PATENTS AND TRADEMARKS
Washington, D.C. 20231

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.
-----------------	-------------	----------------------	---------------------

09/503,852 02/15/00 TILLY

J 2653/28

023838 HM12/1010
KENYON & KENYON
1500 K STREET, N.W., SUITE 700
WASHINGTON DC 20005

EXAMINER

DI NOLA BARON, L

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1615

DATE MAILED:

10/10/01

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/503,852	Tilly et al.
	Examiner	Art Unit
	Liliana Di Nola-Baron	1615

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 August 2001.

2a) This action is **FINAL**. 2b) This action is non-final.

3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

4) Claim(s) 1-45 is/are pending in the application.

4a) Of the above claim(s) 37-45 is/are withdrawn from consideration.

5) Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.

6) Claim(s) 1-36 is/are rejected.

7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.

8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.

10) The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).

11) The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) approved b) disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.

12) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

13) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).

a) All b) Some * c) None of:

1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.

2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.

3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

14) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).

a) The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.

15) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)	4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)	5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____	6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

1. Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-36, in Paper No. 8 is acknowledged. Accordingly, claims 37-45 are withdrawn from consideration.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

2. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

3. Claims 1-36 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Perez et al. in view of Spiegel and further in view of Igarashi et al.

The claimed invention refers to methods of protecting female reproductive system, preserving or reviving ovarian function, or ameliorating menopausal syndromes in women, comprising administering a composition comprising sphingosine-1-phosphate (SPP).

Perez et al. indicates that conventional cancer therapies kill normal cells and one of the most sensitive noncancerous cell type is the ovarian germ cell, and teaches that apoptosis induced by doxorubicin is blocked by sphingosine-1-phosphate (See e.g., p. 1228 and Abstract). Perez et al. does not specify the method and dosage of administration of compositions comprising SPP.

Spiegel provides methods of retarding apoptosis in degenerative diseases, including neurodegenerative diseases and aging, by administration of sphingosine-1-phosphate and derivatives thereof (See e.g., col. 1, lines 9-17). Spiegel teaches that compositions containing SPP may be administered directly to the cells or parenterally to obtain concentrations of 0.1-100 μ M (See e.g., col. 1, line 46 to col. 2, line 42).

Igarashi et al. discloses a method of inhibiting tumor cell chemoinvasion, comprising contacting the tumor cells with an inhibitory amount of sphingosine-1-phosphate (See e.g., col. 1, line 57 to col. 2, line 48). Igarashi et al. teaches that suitable doses of sphingosine-1-phosphate depend upon the particular medical application and that the number of doses, daily dosage and course of treatment may vary from individual to individual (See e.g., col. 7, lines 57-63).

Therefore, it would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to apply the teachings of Perez et al. and Spiegel to device methods of protecting the female reproductive system, reviving the ovarian function or ameliorating menopausal syndromes in women, comprising administering SPP compositions, and determining the mode and dosage of administration according to the teachings of Igarashi et al. Because of the teachings of Spiegel, that sphingosine-1-phosphate is effective in treating neurodegenerative and aging diseases, and the teachings of Igarashi et al., that sphingosine-1-phosphate inhibits tumor cell chemoinvasion, one of ordinary skill in the art would have a reasonable expectation that the methods claimed in the instant application would be successful. Therefore the invention

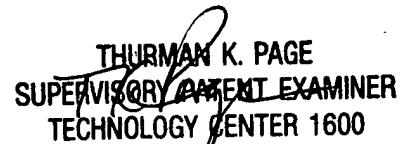
as a whole would have been *prima facie* obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Liliana Di Nola-Baron whose telephone number is 703-308-8318. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday through Thursday, 5:30AM-4:00PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Thurman K Page can be reached on 703-308-2927. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are 703-305-3592 for regular communications and 703-305-3592 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 308-1234/ 1235.

October 4, 2001


THURMAN K. PAGE
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1600